

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**Reimaging
and Reclaiming
Our Strengths
and History**



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ogimma Mark McCoy
Batchewana First Nation

Ogimma Kwe Karen Bell
Travis Jones
Garden River First Nation

Ogimma Joseph Wabigwan
Mary Ann Giguere
Thessalon First Nation

Ogimma Brent Niganobe
Peyton Pitawanakwat
Denise Boyer-Payette
Mississauga First Nation

Ogimma Kwe Wilma-Lee Johnston
Michelle Owl
Serpent River First Nation

Ogimma Angus Toulouse
Lawrence Solomon
Sagamok Anishnawbek

Ogimma Craig Nootchtai
Harvey Petahtegoose
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek

Executive Committee

Peyton Pitawanakwat, Mississauga
First Nation – Chairperson

Ogimma Angus Toulouse, Sagamok
Anishnawbek - Vice Chair

Harvey Petahtegoose, Atikameksheng
Anishnawbek - Secretary Treasurer

Harvey Bell - Elder Representative on
Board of Directors



Director's Message

Aaniin! So many changes have happened here at Benbowopka in the past year. It is certain that if you have driven past our treatment centre site, you will have noticed large equipment coming in and out, a lot of digging, substantial changes in the landscape, and the footprint of a new capital build. In March 2024, we began our \$20 million capital build project to create a new state-of-the-art, 16-bed treatment facility on the west end of our current property. Early in March, we had wonderful participation from our communities in the planning for our “groundbreaking ceremonies” to prepare our land before construction started on the project. This included an initial Pipe Ceremony as well as a second Fire and Water Ceremony. Miigwetch to everyone who assisted us with this planning and ceremonies! We deeply appreciate the support from Indigenous Services Canada, who are funding our new treatment centre and continue to provide crucial financial support for our operational costs.

The Benbowopka Treatment Centre continues to play a vital role in collaborating with our local First Nations to address the ongoing addiction challenges in their communities. As Acting Executive Director Jim Baraniuk approaches retirement, he will oversee the construction of our new treatment centre. Since April 2024, I have assumed the role of Director of Benbowopka Treatment Centre. My transition has also provided the centre with full-time access to a Nurse Practitioner. In this dual role, I manage Benbowopka's applicant intake readiness, provide onsite medical care for clients during their treatment, and address any emerging concerns during their 50-day stay, reducing the need to

visit emergency rooms at nearby hospitals unless absolutely necessary.

Benbowopka Treatment Centre's treatment model emphasizes the importance of building strong relationships with key partners. We collaborate closely with Niigaaniin on their 10-day land-based detox/stabilization program, ensuring a seamless transition from detox to treatment for those seeking support on their addictions healing journey. To support a continuous and successful healing path after treatment, we work in partnership with Maamwesying North Shore Community Health Services (MNSCHS), enabling us to provide comprehensive wraparound services and ensure proper follow-up care for individuals after they leave treatment.

Benbowopka Treatment Centre remains a key partner of Maamwesying Ontario Health Team. I participate in bi-weekly leadership meetings, which facilitate the coordinated delivery of Mental Health and Addictions services to our local First Nations communities. We are excited to contribute to Maamwesying Ontario Health Team's year two focus on enhancing Mental Health and Addictions services and improving access for all community members in need.

We have acquired a shared position from MNSCHS of a mental wellness counsellor who now serves a role of Cultural Lead within Benbowopka Treatment Centre. This cultural lead position has allowed us to refine our 50-day curriculum to incorporate a more culturally focused healing approach within addictions recovery, while allowing for continued 1:1 mental wellness counselling on-site to relatives at the treatment centre. MNSCHS

also continues to provide the Traditional Medicine practitioner support to our treatment program for monthly sessions with the relatives each cycle. As well, we have acquired a Shkaabewis that assists in our cultural curriculum development and facilitation of program sessions. One of the highlights from the past year was the implementation of our new Elder-in-Residence program, which has provided our clients with valuable wisdom, guidance, and traditional teachings to help them on their healing journey. The program has been well-received by our relatives and has helped strengthen our cultural programming.

We have implemented many positive changes into our 50-day treatment cycle, resulting in a significant increase in applications from both regional and provincial areas. In partnership with MNSCHS, we have established the Minobimaadizing withdrawal management clinic on-site, operating one day per week. This clinic serves community members from Thessalon First Nation, Mississauga First Nation, and Serpent River First Nation who prefer to receive care outside their community. This arrangement helps protect individuals from the stigma associated with accessing a withdrawal management program. We also provide transportation for Minobimaadizing clients to ensure a smooth transition to and from their clinic appointments.

Looking back on the past 12 months at Benbowopka Treatment Centre, it is evident that we continue to experience success due to the support we receive from our Board of Directors, Elders,

staff, partner organizations, First Nations communities and funders. We continue to make positive strides in supporting our relatives with a strong cultural program to help our relatives feel supported physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually as they continue their healing journey to address their mental health and addictions.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our work in supporting our relatives on their healing journey and further strengthening our programs and services. The past 12 months have been a time of growth and success for Benbowopka Treatment Centre, and we are committed to continuing to provide high-quality, culturally sensitive care to our relatives in need. Thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey.

Miigwetch!

Chantelle Evans MN, NP

Director – Benbowopka Treatment Centre



Statistics for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Cycle 1-23 - April 7, 2023 - May 26, 2023

First Nation	Referred	Admitted	Closed	Incomplete	Completed
Batchewana	2	1	1		1
Garden River	3	1	2		1
Thessalon	2	1	1		1
Mississauga	1	1			1
Serpent River					
Sagamok	2	1	1		1
Atikameksheng					
Metis Status					
Other First Nation	1	1			1
Non Member					

Cycle 2-23 - June 2, 2023 - July 21, 2023

First Nation	Referred	Admitted	Closed	Incomplete	Completed
Batchewana	1	1			1
Garden River	2	2			2
Thessalon	1		1		
Mississauga	2	2	1	1 Voluntarily Terminated	1
Serpent River	2	2			2
Sagamok	1	1	1	1 VT	
Atikameksheng					
Metis Status					
Other First Nation	3	1	2		1
Non Member					

Cycle 3-23 - July 28, 2023 – September 15, 2023

First Nation	Referred	Admitted	Closed	Incomplete	Completed
Batchewana					
Garden River	1	1		1	
Thessalon					
Mississauga	1	1		1	
Serpent River					
Sagamok	1	1			1
Atikameksheng					
Metis Status	1	1		1	
Other First Nation	5	5		3	2
Non Member	2	2			2

Cycle 4-23 - September 22, 2023 – November 10, 2023

First Nation	Referred	Admitted	Closed	Incomplete	Completed
Batchewana	1	1			1
Garden River	1		1		
Thessalon					
Mississauga	1	1			
Serpent River	3	2			2
Sagamok	2	1	1	1 Voluntarily Terminated	
Atikameksheng	1	1			1
Metis Status	1		1		
Other First Nation	19	3		1 Voluntarily Terminated	2
Non Member	10	2		1 Voluntarily Terminated	1

In August 2023, Benbowopka management met to discuss the Healing Journey Program down time from November 10/23 – December 5, 2023. With scheduled on-site training for Team Members from December 5 to December 14, 2023, there left little time to schedule a 28-day healing journey program. A decision was made to offer two, one-week introductory “Wholistic Journey to Wellness.” Jeannie Hebert, Benbowopka’s Cultural Lead, named the one-week program “Ajiikaak Mooka ‘ Am” meaning “The Crane brings a New Dawn.”

Cycle 5-23 - November 15, 2023 - November 22, 2023

FIRST NATION/OTHER	
Non-Status	
Serpent River	
Other	
Other	No Show

Cycle 6-23 - November 27, 2023 - December 3, 2023

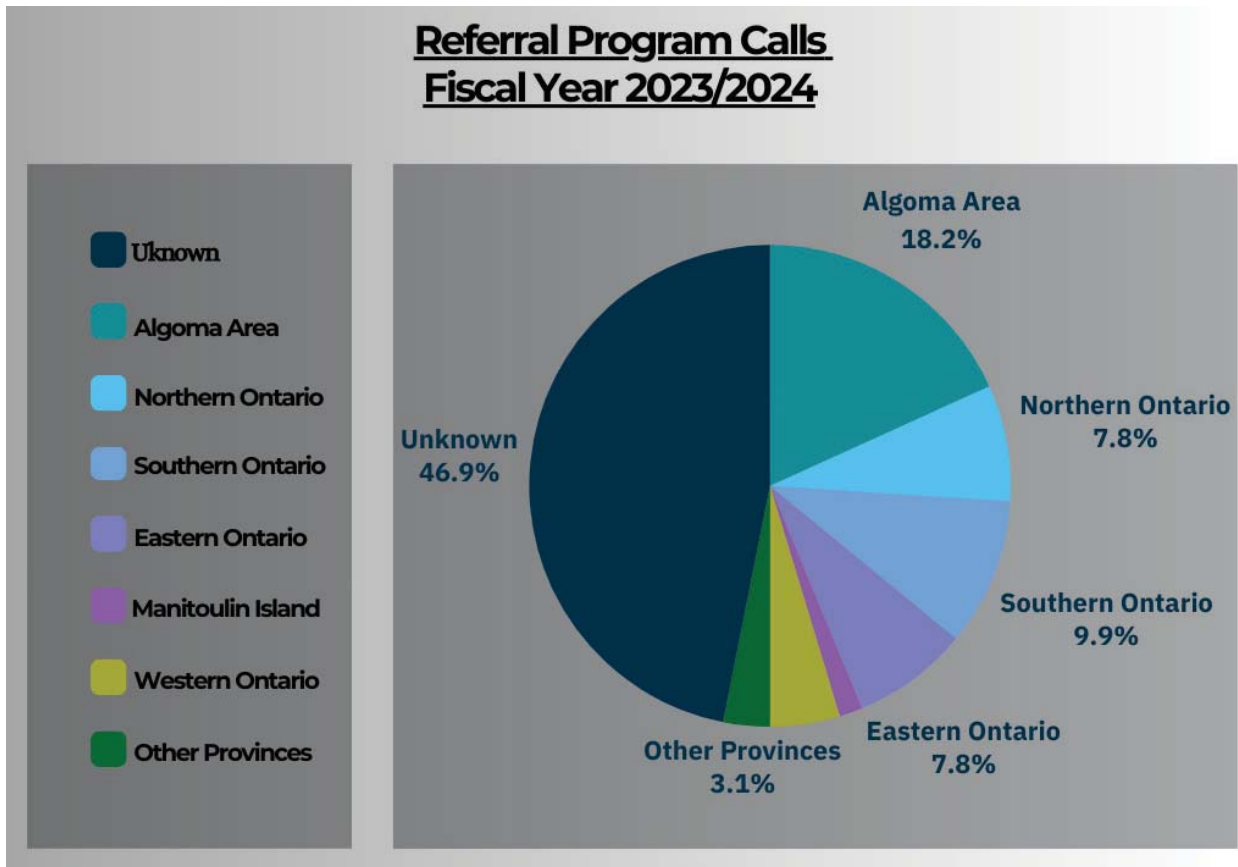
FIRST NATION/OTHER	
Non-Status	
Sagamok Anishnawbek	
Mississauga	
Inuit	
Non-Status	
Sagamok Anishnawbek	No Show

Cycle 7-24 - January 10, 2024 - February 28, 2024

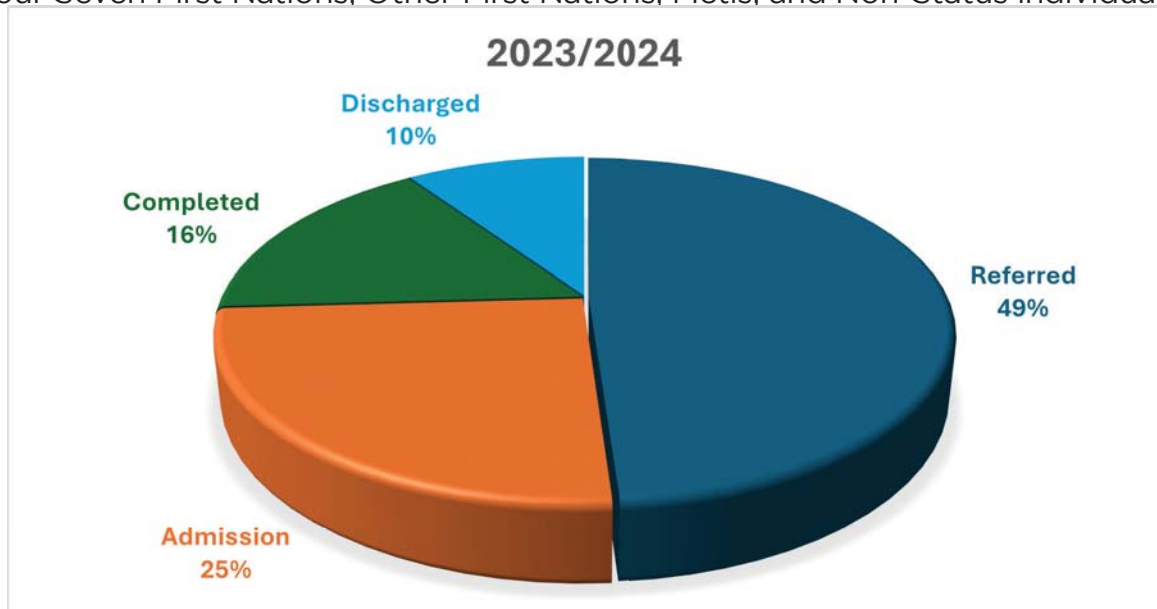
First Nation	Referred	Admitted	Closed	Incomplete	Completed
Batchewana	3	1	2	1	1
Garden River					
Thessalon				0	
Mississauga	1	1		1	
Serpent River	2	1			1
Sagamok	1	1			1
Atikameksheng	3	2	1	1	1
Metis Status					
Other First Nation	8	3	1	2	
Non Member	7	4	3	1	3

Cycle 8-24 - March 6, 2024 - April 24, 2024

First Nation	Referred	Admitted	Closed	Incomplete	Completed
Batchewana					
Garden River	2	2		1	1
Thessalon	2	2		1	1
Mississauga					
Serpent River					
Sagamok					
Atikameksheng					
Metis Status	1	1			1
Other First Nation	5	5		3	2
Non Member	1	1		1	



Fiscal Year April 2023 to March 2024 - the graph illustrates referrals Benbowopka received from our Seven First Nations, Other First Nations, Metis, and Non-Status individuals.



Of the referral packages received from our Seven First Nations, the above graph depicts the percentage of those who successfully completed a healing journey program at Benbowopka Treatment Centre from April 2023 to April 2024.



Benbowopka Treatment Centre Strategic Goals 2022 - 2025

Strategic Goal 1

Develop strategies that will enhance the safety and wellbeing of Relatives and staff by:

- a. Developing an Annual Health and Safety Plan that will incorporate training to address gaps identified through feedback from:
 - i. Health and Safety Committee
 - ii. Quality Assurance Surveys
 - iii. Staff surveys
 - iv. Staff/Patient Safety Incident Reports
- b. Develop a Staff Wellness Committee and members will create an organizational Wellness Plan with the focus on staff retention and selfcare
 - i. Annual Wellness Plans will be developed and actioned commencing in 2022

Strategic Goal 2

Look at ways of enhancing Benbowopka Treatment Centre's treatment program to better meet the needs of its Relatives and First Nation communities by:

- a. Securing funding for the construction of a new sixteen bed treatment centre
- b. Expanding the partnership with Niigaaniin's land-based detox/stabilization program
- c. Enhancing staff training through feedback from Relatives, collaterals, and communities
- d. Engaging Relatives, strategic partners, and communities on possible

changes to the length of the treatment program to better meet the needs of Relatives and communities

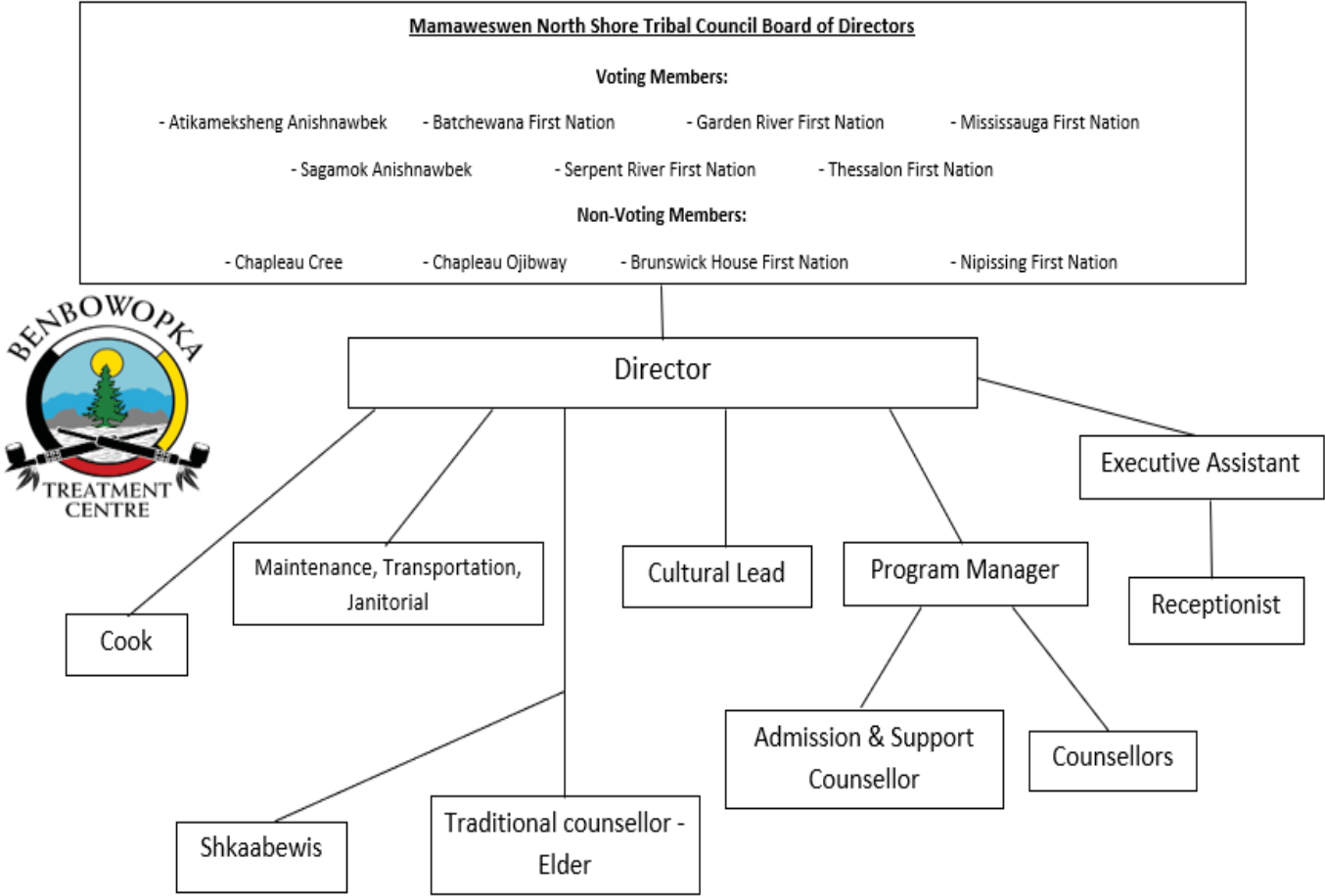
- e. Developing a plan with strategic partners for the repurposing of Benbowopka Treatment Centre's existing buildings, once the new treatment centre is constructed to address gaps in addictions services related to detox/stabilization, transitional care, and relapse prevention
- f. Actively participate as a Core Partner in Maamwesying North Shore Community Health's Ontario Health Team initiative with a focus on enhancing primary care support to Benbowopka Treatment Centre's Relatives

Strategic Goal 3

Create stronger partnerships and communication with the seven local First Nation communities' Elders, mental health, and addictions staff to help facilitate better pre-treatment readiness for Relatives entering into Benbowopka Treatment Centre and post-treatment support as a preventative measure for relapse. Benbowopka Treatment Centre will:

- a. Develop annual onsite addictions planning days on each First Nation community with their Elders, mental health/addictions staff and any other interested staff to look at ways of enhancing pre-treatment readiness and relapse prevention
- b. Invite First Nation communities and strategic partners to an annual Open House for an orientation to Benbowopka Treatment Centre programming and services

BENBOWOPKA TREATMENT CENTRE - ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Pipe Ceremony, Fire and Water Ceremony



Embrace change, for it is the only constant in life
- Chief Dan George





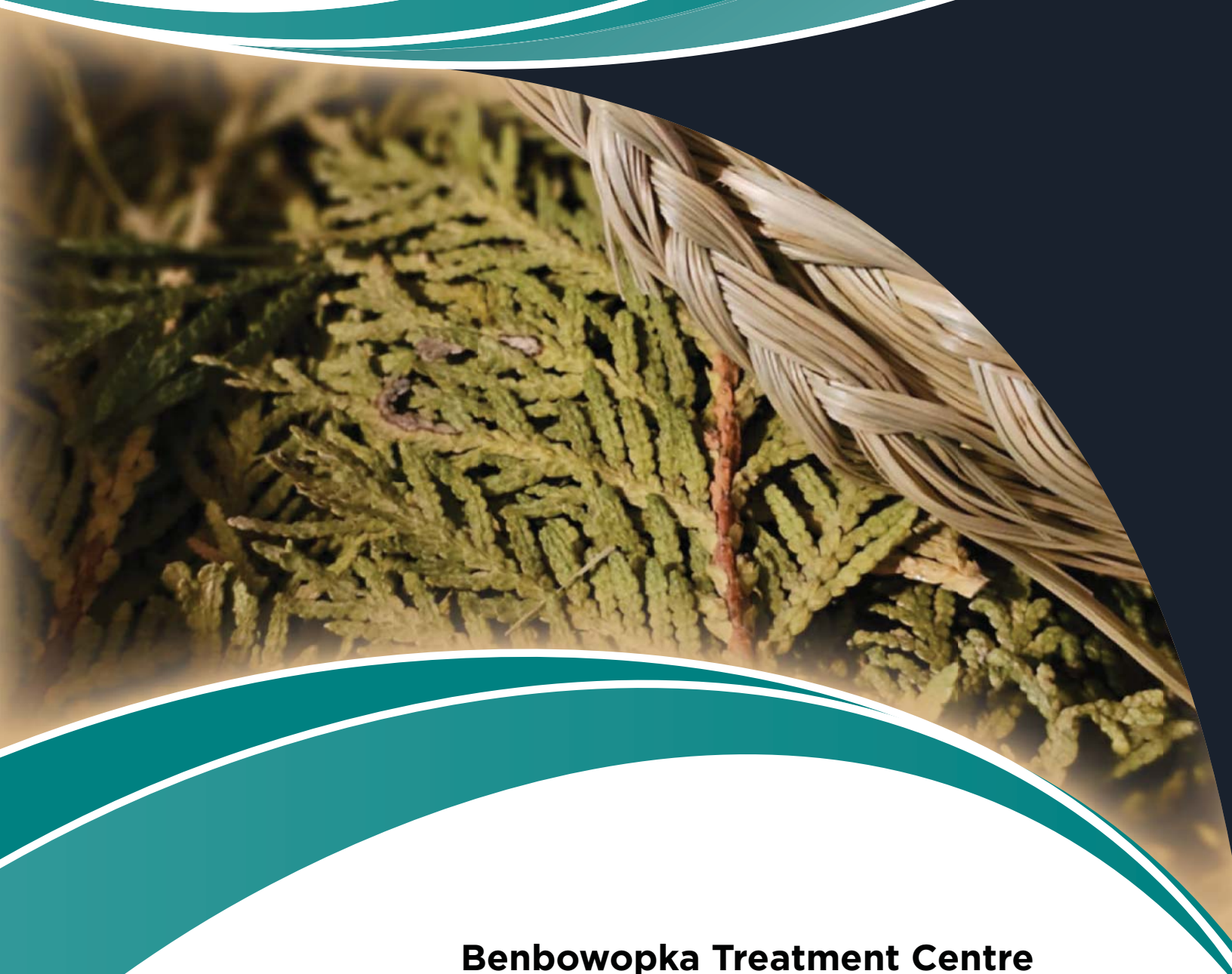
Benbowopka Team



Benbowopka Treatment Centre

(705) 356-1681

www.benbowopka.com



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